

Appendix B. PAE recruitment message for state child welfare directors

Example Email for State or County-Level Child Welfare Directors

[NOTE: The following includes an example of email communication with State/County Child Welfare Agency Directors regarding possible participation in usability testing for the toolkit. The email sender may include Federal partners from the Children's Bureau or the Principal Investigator and Project Managers for this study from JBA and ICF. An email attachment that includes a project description will be included with the email. After sending this initial email, the topics discussed in the email and provided in the project description attachment will be adapted and serve as talking points for any follow-up phone conversations with State or County Child Welfare Directors.]

Dear [name]:

We are writing on behalf of the US Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding a current project focused on the identification and care of children in child welfare with prenatal exposure to alcohol and other drugs. James Bell Associates (JBA) and ICF are examining the usability of a newly developed practice-informed toolkit to help child welfare agency leaders, supervisors, caseworkers, and caregivers increase their awareness and knowledge of prenatal alcohol and other substance exposures. Through brief, step-by-step guided processes, resources, and tools, **the toolkit is intended to help agencies plan and implement internal and cross-system processes to improve their practices to identify and provide care and support to families and children living with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs).**

As you may be aware, prenatal substance exposure (PSE) can result in a variety of adverse birth outcomes and short- and long-term physical, behavioral, developmental, and cognitive effects. In a recently completed descriptive study of child welfare agency policies and practices, staff and directors, allied services providers, and caregivers all noted a great need for child welfare staff to increase their knowledge about PSE and PAE. Study participants especially raised the need for available information and resources to provide for the care for those children and youth affected by PSE and FASDs. This is where our toolkit for the identification and care of children prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs could be helpful to your agency and staff.

We are currently seeking the engagement of 1-2 child welfare agencies in your jurisdiction to participate in the review and refinement of the toolkit and to provide feedback via individual and/or group interviews.

Participating sites would receive non-monetary supports such as access to expert consultants and recognition in publications to compensate for the time and opportunity costs of staff participation in activities related to review and feedback regarding the toolkit.

We have attached to this email a description of the project and a brief description of the benefits of site participation in the evaluation. We would appreciate your letting us know if there is a date and time [enter specific time period] where we could schedule a time to talk with you about this opportunity and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Erin Ingoldsby
Project Director

Sharon Newburg-Rinn
Federal Lead, Children's Bureau